



THE COMMUNICATOR

Grant County Employee Newsletter

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Guest Columnist — Wilbur Austin, Sanitarian



My responsibility is to administer the Grant County Private Sewage System & Sanitation Ordinance by working with land owners, Master Plumbers (MP), Certified Soil Testers (CST), and others to regulate the location, design, installation and use of septic systems to protect the public health and environment. Oversight of myself and the sanitation department is by the Board of Health.

I am ably assisted in the substantial record keeping side of the job by Janet Graney who, as you may recall from previous newsletters, splits her time three ways – Veterans, Zoning and Sanitation.

I issue two types of sanitary permits – one for septic systems and the other for non-

plumbing human waste disposal such as privies, composting and incinerating toilets. The later would be only for limited use, and/or seasonal buildings that have no plumbing. For example, I just issued a privy permit to Badger Camp for a remote area of their property used for day outings. Another would be hunting cabins with no well. I have issued approximately 220 permits each of the last few years.

To obtain a sanitary permit for a septic system the first step is to have a CST do a soil evaluation on the site. This will determine the type of system for which the soil is suitable. Next the MP installing the system, plumbing designer, or engineer would design (determined by the soil type and building type and size) and draw plans of the proposed system. This paperwork along with a Sanitary Permit Application signed by the installing MP and fee are submitted to my office for review. If the application meets all code requirements I issue a sanitary

permit. When the system is installed I do an onsite inspection to determine compliance with the plans.

In 1979 the county board elected to participate in the Wisconsin Fund program which awards grants to the county for the replacement of failing septic systems that were installed prior to July 1, 1978 and meet other eligibility requirements. To date the county has received over \$1.2 million for grant payments to 679 eligible owners.

Maintenance is an important aspect of septic system ownership. The ordinance requires that all systems permitted since 1981 be inspected every 3 years and pumped if necessary. That means that this office sends out and receives back upwards of 1200 maintenance notices each year. The management and maintenance of private septic systems is likely to receive growing attention in the future.



Year End Reminders

Submitted by
Dawn Mergen, Personnel Specialist

2005's \$10

Office Co-pay Receipts

The Grant County Personnel Office will accept reimbursement requests between 1/1/06 and 1/15/06 for the 2005 office co-pays. Let us know if you need a form (723-2540). Any reimbursement requests after this date will be forfeited. Payment will be made within fifteen days or as soon as reasonably possible.

Beneficiaries

Retirement and life insurance beneficiary changes may be made by contacting the Personnel Office (723-2540).

How To Contact Your Health Insurance Carrier

Medical Associates
1-866-821-1365
www.mahealthcare.com

Dean Health Plan
1-800-279-1301
www.deancare.com

Inclement weather

(Grant County Employee Handbook)



Grant County agencies and departments will not close during adverse weather conditions. Employees are expected to come to work. Inclement weather may make it impossible for employees to come to work, require employees to leave work before the end of normal office hours, or require employees to remain overtime to work the next shift. Employees can decline to come to work if adverse weather poses too great a danger for them. An employee's supervisor must approve any absence before the employee is allowed to leave the workplace. Employees requesting this time off, or not working because of site closure, may charge time to unused vacation, compensatory time, discretionary time or leave without pay. Sick leave may not be used and the County will not pay for non-working time.

Where appropriate, an announcement will be made indicating that some offices may be understaffed, so patrons

are alerted to call before coming to county facilities to transact business.

Anyone wishing to have a specific subject discussed in a future newsletter may contact Joyce Roling at 723-2045.

On-the-job accidents

Have you ever felt aches and pains after performing a strenuous work task that's only done at certain times of the year or very infrequently? Occasionally the aches and pains increase over a period of days and medical attention is required. Worker's Compensation benefits may be jeopardized if the claim is reported late. We aren't penalized for reporting claims that don't result in medical attention – the reporting is actually encouraged by the insurance company.



All accidents, no matter how small, must be reported to your supervisor immediately. Call the Personnel Dept. (723-2540) if your supervisor isn't available.



2006 Holidays

The following is a listing of Grant County's year 2006 observed paid holidays: (Represented employees' holidays are determined by labor agreement)

New Year's Day.....	Monday, January 2, 2006
Friday Afternoon before Easter.....	Friday, April 14, 2006
Memorial Day.....	Monday, May 29, 2006
Independence Day.....	Tuesday, July 4, 2006
Labor Day.....	Monday, September 4, 2006
Veteran's Day.....	Friday, November 10, 2006
Thanksgiving Day.....	Thursday, November 23, 2006
Christmas Eve.....	Friday, December 22, 2006
Christmas Day.....	Monday, December 25, 2006
The New Year's Day holiday for the year 2007 will be Monday, January 1, 2007.	

Always Believe in You.
 Listen to your heart.
 Trust your instincts.
 Know you CAN.
 See your own strengths.
 Dream it -- dare it.
 Do what you are afraid of.
 Keep the faith.
 Follow your vision.
 Remember ANYTHING
 is possible if only you believe
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